

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant submits concurrently herewith a new Declaration signed by the inventors. Applicant has amended the instant application so as to cross-reference that the instant application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending Application Serial No. 09/597,038, now U.S. Patent 6,472,765.

Applicant has filed concurrently herewith a new Declaration establishing for the continuation-in-part. By filing the enclosed Declaration and claiming C-I-P status, Applicant has removed Sano JP 200002216 as a prior art reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims as pending are in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

Appln. No. 10/026,871
Amdt. Dated 02/04/2004
Reply to Final Action
dated 12/04/2003

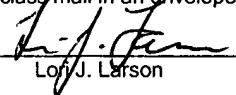
If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Gregory P. LaPointe
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 28,395

Date: February 4, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on Feb. 4, 2004.


Lori J. Larson